

to bestow on it the title of *Pericrocotus novus*. It belongs to the *P. flammeus* group, and is most nearly allied to *P. exsul* of Java.

28. *STURNIA VIOLACEA* (252).

Luzon, to which new.

29. *CALORNIS PANAYENSIS* (255).

Guimaras. Not previously recorded thence.

30. *ARDETTA SINENSIS*.

Luzon. Not recorded before from Luzon.

XXII.—*On a Collection of Birds from the vicinity of Muscat.*

By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c., Zoological Department, British Museum of Natural History.

(Plate VI.)

FOR the collection here described the British Museum is indebted to the kindness of Colonel Miles, and the interest which attaches to any series of birds from a new locality is certainly not wanting in the present instance. The only information we possess up to the present concerning the ornithology of this part of Arabia is contained in a short reference in Mr. Hume's diary of his expedition to Sind and the Mekran coast ('Stray Feathers,' i. pp. 144-166). Mr. Hume was at Muscat on the 22nd of February, 1872, and stayed till the evening of the 24th. Beyond a few Gulls and sea-birds, he found on shore only some Common Sandpipers, Egyptian Vultures, Ospreys, Ravens, Sparrows, Turtle-Doves, and a Kingfisher; but it was of course impossible for him in such a short visit to get into the interior, where, however, he was informed, there were many birds. We hope soon to receive from Colonel Miles some further particulars as to the exact localities where the specimens were procured, but meanwhile I have thought it of some interest to give a list of the species.

Where the species have not been mentioned in the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds,' I have referred to Mr. Hume's "List of Indian Birds," published in 'Stray Feathers' for



J.G. Keulemans lith.

Hanhart imp

BUBO MILES.

1879 (pp. 73-116); it contains full references to Jerdon's 'Birds of India' and 'Stray Feathers,' in which works ornithologists will find many details respecting the birds mentioned in the present paper.

FALCO COMMUNIS, Gm.; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. i. p. 376.

No. 19. An immature bird.

FALCO CONCOLOR, Temm.; Sharpe, t. c. p. 405.

No. 12. Quite a young bird, the determination of which has given me some trouble. The peculiar pink hue of the under surface is quite different from that of any young Hobby with which I am acquainted, and no specimen out of our large series of *Falco subbuteo* can be found to match it. I therefore believe it to be an immature *Falco concolor*, although it does not resemble exactly any specimen I have yet seen, nor any figure of the young bird. This, I fancy, may be due to the fact that the Muscat specimen is younger than any previously procured by naturalists. I have asked Colonel Miles to endeavour to obtain an adult bird of this Falcon, and shall await its arrival with interest.

The only specimen of this species from North-eastern Africa in the Museum is an adult bird from Efat in Shoa, obtained by Sir W. C. Harris. It is very much lighter grey than any of the Madagascar specimens in the collection, but much resembles the figure given by Grandidier and Milne-Edwards (Hist. Nat. de Madagascar). This species would appear to be subject to melanism, as all the Madagascar specimens in the Museum are blacker than the Efat bird.

CIRCUS PYGARGUS (L.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. i. p. 64.

No. 12. Two young birds.

SCOPS GIU (Scop.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. ii. p. 47.

No. 2. An adult bird, agreeing with European specimens. Mr. Cumming has sent examples of it from Fao.

BUBO MILESI, sp. n. (Plate VI.)

A small Eagle Owl cannot be referred to any known species

with which I am acquainted. It is not *B. ignavus* nor *B. turcomanus*, for it is not half the size, and moreover belongs to a section of the genus *Bubo* in which the last joint of the toes is unfeathered. It has no "wig" like *B. bengalensis* or *B. ascalaphus*, and is so much smaller that it could never be mistaken for either of these species.

The nearest approach that I can find to the Muscat Owl is in *Bubo magellanicus*!; for *B. capensis* is an Owl of a totally different type, with large white ovate spots on the wing-coverts and on the underparts, whereas *B. milesi* is narrowly barred on the breast and abdomen, with the thighs and leg-feathers pale tawny, indistinctly but regularly barred across with dusky brown. The accompanying figure gives a good idea of the species, which will be seen to be unlike any other Palæarctic or Indian Eagle Owl. The measurements of the type specimen are as follows:—Total length 18 inches, culmen 1·55, wing 12·7, tail 7, tarsus 2·4.

CORVUS UMBRINUS, Sundev.; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. iii. p. 17.

No. 49. An adult specimen.

ORIOLOUS GALBULA, L.; Sharpe, t. c. p. 191.

No. 38. An adult female. Also forwarded to the Museum from Fao by Mr. Cumming.

SAXICOLA PICATA, Blyth; Seebohm, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. v. p. 367.

No. 5. Two adult females.

SAXICOLA MONTANA, Gould; Seebohm, t. c. p. 384.

No. 33. Two adults.

PYCNONOTUS XANTHOPYGUS (Hempr. & Ehr.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. vi. p. 135.

No. 28. Two adult specimens. Muscat will probably be found to be about the extreme eastern range of this species, which did not occur in Mr. Cumming's Fao collection.

ARGYA SQUAMICEPS (Cretzschm.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. vii. p. 395.

No. 21. Two adult specimens. It is rather interesting

to find that the Babbling Thrush of the Muscat district is *A. squamiceps* and not *A. huttoni*, which is the species inhabiting Persia.

LANIUS FALLAX, Finsch ; Gadow, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. viii. p. 247.

No. 22. Two specimens, which appear to agree with those determined by Dr. Gadow as *L. fallax* in the British Museum. One similar specimen was sent from Fao by Mr. D. W. Cumming.

MOTACILLA ALBA, L. ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. x. p. 454. Nos. 13, 17. Two specimens in winter plumage.

GALERITA CRISTATA, L. ; Hume, Stray F. 1879, p. 139. No. 27. Two specimens.

MEROPS MUSCATENSIS, Sharpe, anteà, p. 15.

M. affinis M. cyanophryi, sed rostro minore et linea superciliari viridi-cyanea nec læte cyanea distinguenda. Long. tot. 7·5, culmen 1·0, alæ 3·75, caudæ 3·7, tarsi 0·35.

No. 15. This is a very interesting new form of Bee-eater, intermediate between *M. viridis* and *M. cyanophrys*. In its blue throat and eyebrow it resembles the latter species, as might be expected, but the blue of these parts is greenish in tint. The throat is paler and more verdigris-blue, the black throat-spot is smaller, and the bill is shorter. Mr. Dresser has kindly lent me his two specimens of *M. cyanophrys*, with which to compare the Muscat bird. At the same time the latter is approached by a Baluchistan example of *M. viridis* which has a decidedly blue throat, but all the specimens of *M. viridis* from India which show any blue on the throat have only a green eyebrow, not even mixed with blue. Of the two species, *M. muscatensis* must be compared with *M. cyanophrys* rather than with *M. viridis*.

CORACIAS INDICA, L. ; Hume, t. c. p. 85.

No. 40. Two specimens. Both the birds sent agree entirely with Indian examples. The British Museum has also received a specimen from Fao, in the Persian Gulf, presented by Mr. W. D. Cumming.

ALCEDO ISPIDA, L. ; Hume, Str. F. 1879, p. 86.

Alcedo bengalensis, Hume, Str. F. 1873, p. 168.

No. 1. An adult specimen. Mr. Hume considers the Kingfisher which he procured at Muscat to be *A. bengalensis*; but Colonel Miles's specimen appears to me to be *A. ispida*, supposing that the two forms can really be distinguished as more than races. After looking over Mr. Hume's immense series of *A. bengalensis*, I do not think it will be possible to maintain *A. bengalensis* as a distinct species; for, as he has pointed out, the Sind birds are really intermediate, and I see from his label that he has altered his opinion as to the Muscat specimen, which is now labelled *A. ispida*. In future I think that *A. bengalensis* will have to be regarded as a small, brightly-coloured, tropical race of the European *A. ispida*.

UPUPA EPOPS, L. ; Hume, Str. F. 1879, p. 90.

No. 39. One adult bird.

TURTUR RISORIUS, L. ; Hume, t. c. p. 110.

No. 35. Two specimens.

TURTUR SENEGALENSIS, L. ; Hume, t. c. p. 110.

No. 41. Two specimens.

PTEROCLES LICHTENSTEINI, Temm. ; Hume and Marshall, Game Birds of India, i. p. 65.

No. 44. One specimen.

PTEROCLES CORONATUS, Licht. ; Hume and Marshall, t. c. p. 57.

Nos. 46, 48. Two specimens.

AMMOPERDIX HEYI, Hume and Marshall, t. c. p. 49, note.

Nos. 31, 43. A pair.

ORTYGORNIS PONDICERIANUS, Gm. ; Hume and Marshall, t. c. p. 52.

No. 30. One specimen.

HOUBARA MACQUEENI (Gray & Hardw.) ; Hume and Marshall, t. c. p. 17.

No. 48. An adult specimen.

CREX CREX (L.).

Crex pratensis, Hume, Str. F. 1879, p. 113.

No. 37. An apparently adult bird.

FULICA ATRA, L.; Hume, t. c. p. 113.

No. 8. A specimen killed in winter.

ÆDICNEMUS SCOLOPAX (Gm.); Hume, t. c. p. 112.

No. 29. An adult bird.

LOBIVANELLUS INDICUS (Bodd.); Hume, t. c. p. 112.

No. 4. An adult specimen.

CHARADRIUS FULVUS, Gm.; Hume, t. c. p. 112.

No. 25. An adult specimen.

SQUATAROLA HELVETICA (L.); Hume, t. c. p. 112.

No. 14. Two specimens.

ÆGIALITIS MONGOLICUS (Pall.).

Ægialitis mongola, Hume, t. c. p. 112.

Nos. 11, 42. Two specimens in winter plumage, identified by Mr. J. E. Harting.

ÆGIALITIS GEOFFROYI (Wagl.); Hume, t. c. p. 112.

No. 23. Two specimens, also identified for me by Mr. Harting.

ÆGIALITIS DUBIUS (Scop.); Hume, t. c. p. 112.

No. 15. One specimen.

TOTANUS OCHROPUS, L.; Hume, t. c. p. 113.

No. 3. One specimen.

TOTANUS CALIDRIS, L.; Hume, t. c. p. 113.

No. 6. One specimen.

TOTANUS GLAREOLA, L.

Rhyacophila glareola, Hume, t. c. p. 113.

No. 31. One specimen.

TRINGA ALPINA (L.); Hume, t. c. p. 113.

Nos. 26, 34, 35. Four specimens.

TRINGOIDES HYPOLEUCUS, L.; Hume, t. c. p. 113.

No. 31. One specimen. Also noticed at Muscat by Mr. Hume (Str. F. 1873, p. 145).

NUMENIUS MAJOR, T. & S. Faun. Japon. p. 110, pl. lxvi.
No. 47. An adult specimen. Mr. Harting pronounces it
to be the large Asiatic Curlew.

DEMIEGRETTE GULARIS (Bosc); Hume, Str. F. 1879, p. 114.
No. 18. An adult bird.

LARUS HEMPRICHI, Bp.; Hume, t. c. p. 115.
No. 10. A specimen in moult, changing from the brown
plumage into the full grey dress.

LARUS RIDIBUNDUS, L.; Hume, t. c. p. 115.
No. 24. Two specimens.

LARUS CACHINNANS, Pall.; Hume, t. c. p. 115.
No. 9. An adult bird, identified for me by Mr. Howard
Saunders.

PHAETON INDICUS, Hume; id. t. c. p. 116.
No. 7. An adult bird, belonging to the short-tailed form,
called by Mr. Hume *P. indicus*.

XXIII.—*A List of the Birds obtained by Mr. Henry Whitely
in British Guiana.* By OSBERT SALVIN, M.A., F.R.S., &c.

[Continued from p. 78.]

520*. FREGATA AQUILA.

Tachypetes aquila, Cab. in Schomb. Guiana, iii. p. 763.
Fregata aquila, Baird, Brew., & Ridgw. Water-Birds N.
Am. ii. p. 128.
Not represented in Mr. Whitely's collection.

521*. PELECANUS FUSCUS.

Pelecanus fuscus (Linn.), Cab. in Schomb. Guiana, iii.
p. 764; Baird, Brew., & Ridgw. Water-Birds N. Am. ii.
p. 139.
Not represented in Mr. Whitely's collection.

+ 522. PHALACROCORAX BRASILIANUS.

Halieus brasiliensis (Gm.), Cab. in Schomb. Guiana, iii.
p. 764.